



**HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
DIRECTIVE-YOUTH  
Manual of Policies and Procedures**

Title

**MEDICAL OBSERVATION**

Legal References (includes but is not limited to)	Related Policies/Procedures (includes but is not limited to)	Other References (includes but is not limited to)
IC 11-8-2-5 IC 34-4-12.6	01-02-101 01-02-106	National Correctional Healthcare Standards

**I. PURPOSE:**

This Health Care Services Directive (HCSD) provides guidelines for the care and review of youth that require medical observation in the health care unit.

**II. MEDICAL OBSERVATION OF YOUTH:**

- A. Although a Division of Youth Services (DYS) facility may designate an area to provide medical observation of a youth that requires frequent monitoring, any youth that requires infirmary level care or above shall be sent to an offsite hospital with the order of a clinician.
- B. Medical observation areas are not staffed by the Health Services vendor to provide 24/7 care but provide closer access to those youth that may require increased monitoring and it would be beneficial to the Health Services staff to have them closer than the normal assigned housing unit.
- C. It is not an expectation of the Health Services Division that each DYS facility designates a medical observation unit.
- D. Documentation in the electronic medical record (EMR) shall reflect the care and observation that is provided while a youth is under medical observation.
- E. Any youth placed in acute medical observation shall be assessed by nursing staff each shift for any needs or changes in status. Observation does not require a clinician's order and may be done as part of a nurse's assessment plan as this is not an infirmary setting. Once a youth is placed in the observation unit, the clinician shall be notified. No youth shall be returned to general housing assignments until a health professional releases, them from the medical observation area.
- F. Each facility that identifies a medical observation unit shall develop a standard nursing procedure manual that shall include a description of

<b>HEALTH CARE SERVICES DIRECTIVE-YOUTH</b>			
Indiana Department of Correction			
<b>Manual of Policies and Procedures</b>			
Number 3.15Y	Effective Date 4/1/2022	Page 2	Total Pages 2
Title <b>INFIRMARY MANUAL</b>			

nursing procedures in detail for the monitoring of the youths that require close medical observation.

- G. Any DYS facility that is able to monitor a youth's condition for more than 24 hours shall have appropriately recorded on call schedules for the Site Medical Director.

#### IV. APPLICABILITY:

This HCSD is applicable to all Division of Youth Services facilities that are able to provide medical observation in an area other than a housing unit.

signature on file

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Dauss, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date